

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 126

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations that are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., which is commemorating its fortieth year of service to Tennesseans this year; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is a devastating disease that impairs memory, reasoning, motor skills, and one's ability to care for oneself; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Alzheimer's disease on individuals, families, and our healthcare system is such that the disease is one of our nation's primary medical, social, and fiscal challenges; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, comprising seventy percent of all cases, and is the sixth leading cause of death in America of persons aged sixty-five and older; every 68 seconds, a new case of Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, at least 5.4 million Americans, including 120,000 Tennesseans, are currently living with Alzheimer's disease, significantly affecting the lives of those individuals as well as their families, friends, and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, an ever-increasing and alarming number of individuals are being touched by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias every day; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness, enhanced support services, increased advocacy efforts, and far more emphasis on research are desperately needed to curb the ever-growing impact of this disease on our world, our country, and our communities; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1983, Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides support services to citizens, promotes brain health through education, and champions research for better prevention and treatment strategies; and

WHEREAS, the organization also recognizes and honors caregivers throughout Tennessee, both family and professional, who provide support and love to those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; Alzheimer's Tennessee convened the first support group for caregivers who have a loved one with Alzheimer's disease in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the following year, Alzheimer's Tennessee hosted its first annual Alzheimer's Disease Research Symposium focused on highlighting research for physicians and professional caregivers; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Alzheimer's Tennessee sponsored the first training for family caregivers in which, to date, thousands of individuals have benefited from similar training workshops, and in 1990, the organization sent the first delegation of family caregivers to Washington, D.C., to advocate for increased funding for National Institutes of Health Alzheimer's research; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Tennessee hired its first full-time executive director, Janice Wade-Whitehead, in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Alzheimer's Tennessee opened an office in Cookeville to better serve the population on the Cumberland Plateau as well as an award-winning adult day center called Howard Circle of Friends; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Alzheimer's Tennessee Executive Director Janice Wade-Whitehead was appointed by the governor to provide leadership and partnership with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and others to create the first State plan to address Alzheimer's disease, one of the first state Alzheimer's plans in the country; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Alzheimer's Tennessee received grant funding from the U.S. Administration on Aging through the Tennessee Commission on Aging to develop models of care with managed care organizations and primary care physicians to improve quality of life to those living with Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Alzheimer's Tennessee became an independent organization, headquartered in Tennessee, to provide more local programs and services to Tennesseans; between 2015 and 2019, the organization opened regional offices in Johnson City, Nashville, Tullahoma, and Jackson to better serve all Tennesseans living with Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Alzheimer's Tennessee Executive Director Janice Wade-Whitehead was appointed by the Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability to serve on the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Advisory Council to aid in the creation of the second State plan to address Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, for four decades, Alzheimer's Tennessee has been committed to advancing Alzheimer's research and enhancing care, education, and support for individuals living with this disease; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Tennessee's noble mission places it among those most venerable organizations of this State, and it is fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., for its tireless dedication to enhancing the knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, congratulate all concerned on the occasion of the organization's fortieth anniversary, and extend our best wishes for every continued success as they endeavor for this most worthy cause.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.